

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, April 5, 2017, to discuss the Grants and Contributions, Museum, Police and Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department & Rescue Squad FY 2018 Proposed Budgets.

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 7:30 p.m. The meeting was held in the Springhill Lake Recreation Center.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Judith F. Davis, Konrad E. Herling, Silke I. Pope, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan. Councilmember Edward V. J. Putens was delayed and arrived at 7:42 p.m. Councilmember Leta M. Mach was out of town and unable to attend.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Nicole Ard, City Manager; David Moran, Assistant City Manager; Jeffrey Williams, City Treasurer; Megan Searing-Young, Museum Curator; Cindy Murray, City Clerk; Acting Police Chief Tom Kemp and Police Captains Gordon Pracht and Tom Moreland.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Neely Oplinger, Washington Ear; Jim Hartsock, College Park Meals on Wheels; Lauren Silberman, Friends of the Greenbelt Museum; President John Wynkoop and Deputy Chief Greg Giglotti, Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad; Lisa Hegwood, Citizens Emergency Response Team; Laura Kressler, Public Safety Advisory Committee; Jim Giese, Greenbelt News Review; Ric Gordon, Colin Byrd and others.,

Grants & Contributions

Jim Hartsock College Park Meals on Wheels Program, reported their all volunteer organization delivers 56 meals each day to residents of Greenbelt, Beltsville, Bladensburg, College Park, Berwyn Heights and Riverdale Park.

Ms. Davis suggested adding another \$1,000 in grant funding to Meals on Wheels if federal funding is reduced.

Neely Oplinger, Washington Ear, reported on the free services provided for blind, visually impaired and physically disabled individuals who cannot effectively read print. She said they have 14 residents of Greenbelt that received services from the Washington Ear. Ms. Oplinger said they have over 384 volunteers, and four of the volunteers are from Greenbelt.

Mayor Jordan and Mr. Herling suggested Ms. Oplinger consider a Washington Ear public service announcement with Greenbelt Access Television.

Ms. Ard relayed a request for a one-time \$1,000 grant for the Citizens Animal Response Team (CART) which will allow the city logo to be included on the CART response trailer.

Mayor Jordan suggested additional grant funding of \$2,500 be considered to cover any unanticipated needs for the year.

Ms. Davis mentioned the petition received from Greenbelt Concert Band to waive the funding requirement for the Music Director. There was discussion regarding how swim team coaches are paid. Mr. Williams and Ms. Ard explained that swim team coaches are city employed life guards and paid through the city. Mr. Williams expressed concern with treating the Music

Director as an employee because he is not under city direction. It was suggested the petition be further discussed at the work session with contribution groups.

Greenbelt Museum

Megan Searing-Young, Greenbelt Museum Curator, reviewed the Museum's accomplishments over the past year. She provided an update of the water damage to the Museum house. Ms. Searing-Young said the house has been closed for seven months while repair and renovation work was being done. She noted that a grand reopening is scheduled for June 4th.

Mr. Byrd mentioned he had recently visited the Greenbelt Museum and learned a great deal about the city's history. He expressed his appreciation to the friendly and helpful staff.

Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad (GVFDRS)

President Wynkoop and Deputy Chief Giglotti reviewed the GVFDRS operating budget. They noted the 2008 ambulance is scheduled for replacement this year.

President Wynkoop requested assistance with funding for the training of volunteer paramedics. He noted it costs between \$15,000 and \$18,000 to fully train these volunteers and most of the costs are paid for by the individual. After discussion, Council suggested up to \$15,000 be considered for training reimbursements over several years.

In response to questions from Council, President Wynkoop and Deputy Chief Giglotti will provide the following information to Council: amount of county funding received; amount of ambulance billing fees reimbursed by the county; and the number of mutual response calls provided to Branchville, West Lanham Hills and Berwyn Heights.

Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Lisa Hegwood, Chair of CERT, reviewed CERT's annual report and budget request. She reported on CERT's activities over the past year and its goals for FY 2018.

Mayor Jordan encouraged CERT to apply for a Greenbelt Community Foundation grant. Mr. Herling suggested CERT consider a public safety announcement through Greenbelt Access Television.

Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC)

Laura Kressler, Vice-Chair of PSAC, spoke about PSAC's accomplishments over the past year and reviewed PSAC's budget request.

Police Department

Council reviewed the Public Safety section of the proposed budget page by page.

Acting Chief Kemp reported that crime has decreased in the city which is consistent with a multi-year trend. He reviewed the types of crimes, locations of crime by area and clearance rates.

There was discussion of the red-light/speed camera safety enforcement programs. Acting Chief Kemp said the department is currently analyzing and implementing proposed upgrades for red-light photo enforcement program camera software and related technology.

Acting Chief Kemp said the vast majority of patrol officers perform additional specialty duties including participating as members on the Emergency Response Unit, Crisis Negotiation Unit, Collision Analysis Reconstruction Unit, Homeland Security Unit and the Honor Guard. He spoke about the success of the reestablishment of the Citizens Academy after a 17 year hiatus.

There was discussion regarding the department being approximately twenty percent below full operating strength due to the loss of officers to retirements and resignations, along with a half dozen officers on light duty. Acting Chief Kemp said officers from specialty support units have been redeployed to fill patrol squads in order to sufficiently maintain core police service functions. He reviewed a variety of new measures and strategies that the department is taking to recruit additional officers.

Acting Chief Kemp said a demonstration of the body cameras would be provided to Council in the future. Mayor Jordan suggested a public demonstration, perhaps as part of a festival in Roosevelt Center. Acting Chief Kemp said he would explore the idea.

Mr. Roberts said residents want to see more officers on bike patrols or foot patrols through the community. Acting Chief Kemp said this will occur as staffing allows.

In response to a question from Colin Byrd, Acting Chief Kemp explained the Police Department policy when dealing with illegal immigrants. He noted that the policy is very similar to a policy of a sanctuary city.

Colin Byrd asked about replica guns. Acting Chief Kemp said replica guns do create a real safety problem for police. He said there is some movement on the state level with legislation to address replica guns. However, he commented on the enforcement challenges that the legislation would create.

Several informational items were discussed.

The meeting ended at 11:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*